

Lower
asterisks } 1106

1106

Good

#2

An
Inaugural Essay
on the Gods
by



A Murray

admitted March 19. 1819

1844
1845
1846



1847. 1848. 1849.

1850. 1851. 1852.

1853. 1854. 1855.

Among all the diseases to which the human body is liable, very few are more distressing and difficult to be removed than the gait. It is a disease which varies so much in its symptoms and appearances according to the different parts of the system which it attacks that it is exceedingly difficult to give a correct history of it, however I shall endeavour in the following pages to relate what appears to me to be the true history, pathology, and method of cure of this very inveterate disease.

Of the History.

The gait, from time immemorial, has been and still is by many, I believe, considered to be a hereditary disease, and to be produced in most cases without the application of the usual remote and exciting causes, which others imagine to be indispen-

2
-ally necessary to its production. Now for this
opinion may be correct I am not pre-
pared to say from my own observation,
though I am disposed to concur with
Dr. Rush in the belief that it is often
dependent on a hereditary predisposition,
propagated from parents to their offspring
in which case less force in exciting
causes will induce the disease than in
such persons as have not received such
a predisposition or susceptibility, if I may
so speak, from their ancestors.

Moreover, if it depended entirely on a
hereditary predisposition or occurred only in
such persons as were born of gentry parents
it would be a much ^{less} ~~more~~ frequent disease
than it is.

This opinion, from the weight of argu-
-ments that might be brought against it, would
appear utterly repugnant to common obser-

-ation, for how often do we see the disease
to originate in persons who have been sud-
denly raised to affluent circumstances from
poverty, or at least from a condition in
which they were obliged to labour for
the means of subsistence. On the contrary
many, who have been unfortunate and reduc-
ed to the necessity of labouring for a
support, have lost, together with their fortunes
every symptom of gouty affection.

Numerous instances to prove the con-
-nec- of the above observations, might be
adduced, but the fact is so well known
to the generality of physicians that I think
it unnecessary to mention any.

Upon the whole I conclude with Dr. Ross
that the great "is only hereditary as far as
fortune and its attendants ease, indolence,
luxury, habits of intemperance, both in eating
and drinking, and that predisposition which

4
arise from a strong and vigorous constitution,
are hereditary?

The disease is said to attack most commonly, the male sex, and such of that sex as belong principally to the sanguine temperament; but I believe that females who indulge in dissipation, are as often subjects to the gout as males, though the disease does not so often take on, what is called the regular form of it, in the form as in the latter, but shows itself in various affections of the stomach and uterus which are most generally termed nervous or hysterical.

The gout does not often make its attacks upon persons who have not arrived at the period of puberty or those in old age, yet there are cases on record of its appearing very early in life, namely, at the age of six years. When it does appear at such an

early period of life, it seems to be only in such
as have a very strong predisposition to the dis-
ease, or who have been exposed to the remote &
exciting causes of it in a greater degree than
ordinary. Nearly the same observation may be
applied to sunstroke.

Paul, by neurologists, has been variously con-
sidered, as a simple, or a complicated, or a
torpid, but for the I am to be sufficient ca-
se, we are disposed to reject altogether, the
two last, there is division, at least for I do
not know that the estimation, any more than
the liver, stomach, or other organs are the seat
of a specific morbid action of mind, though the dis-
ease may in more numerous instances, attack the
brain, from the latter gradually and with more
of the paralytic symptoms. However in the
late of prognosis I shall make use of five terms
as often as I shall have occasion, inasmuch as
they serve to convey tolerably correct ideas of

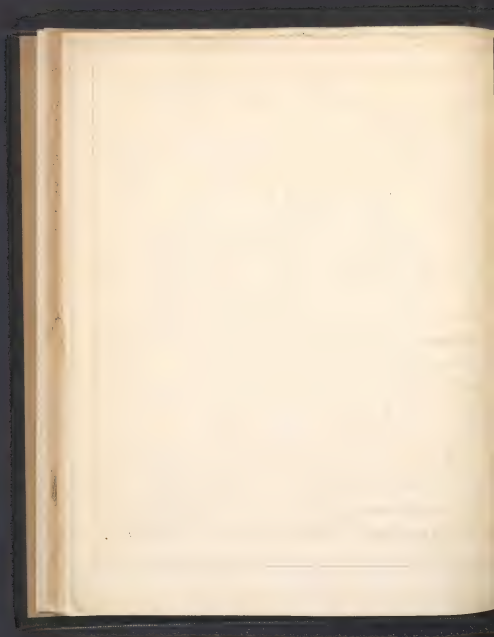


is phenomena of the disease, according to the various causes by which it arises & strikes.

A paroxysm of ague, just as such as makes its appearance about the joints, arms and parts of the extremities. Sometimes though very rarely, it appears, comes on without any premonition, but is most generally ushered in by such symptoms as the following, stiffness of the extremities, numbness or tingling and prickling along the thighs and legs, painful contractions of the muscles of the legs together with languor and sickness of the whole body, indigestion, want of appetite, flatulency, slow circulation &c.

The paroxysm does not always immediately set in these symptoms, but is sometimes a week or more in making its appearance.

It is said to come on for the most part in the Spring of the year, and to be paroxysmal in the morning, though rarely in the evening, and begins with a pain in one or both feet



often in the joint of the great toe or other parts
of the foot. During this process there is usually some
redness and swelling, which, as it subsides is followed
by considerable fever and increase of heart pain
which often continuing with increasing violence
for about twenty-four hours, gradually abates
and perhaps cease entirely to return no more, at
least, not till after a great while.

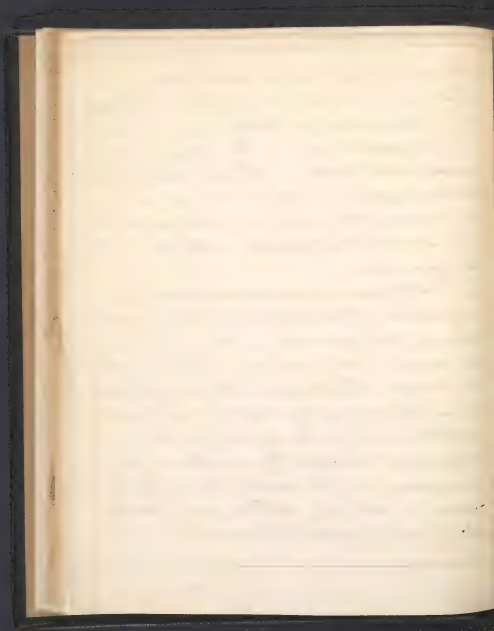
After the disease has often appeared in the
extremities of the same person the pains are not
not so so violent as they were at first, but the
patient is more affected with gastric symptoms in
his stomach, that organ having become debilitated
from the repeated attacks of the disease, it
at last begins to reign triumphant there.

In those persons who are more liable to the disease
from hereditary susceptibility and who have suffered
in one part of the body there are convulsions of a shilly
nature about the joints, in the cellular membrane
of the most parts immediately under the skin.



These concretions appear to be deposited first in a fluid form and to remain consistency and hardness even. The absorption of these concretions, it seems to be a secretion, which is 'the consequence of great increased morbid action in the parts, whereby the capillary vessels are induced to take on a kind of secretion, which I may say is analogous to the other secretions of disease, such as the virus of gonorrhoea, &c. &c.

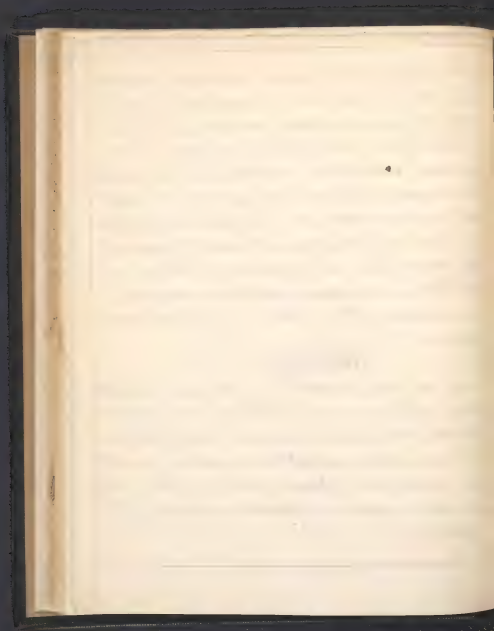
These chalky concretions are not confined to the neighbourhood of joints entirely but manifest themselves by their appearance in the urine of men in persons as have been several years afflicted with the disease. They also appear, though less frequently in the parenchymatous substance of the lungs, gall-bladder &c. In liver let them be found in what part of the liver they may, they are all a consequence of diseased secretion, that is, of the person in whom they are found he can not be free from the gout. These concretions were the



Strong holds of the humoral pathologists when they endeavored to prove that a paragonism of gout depended upon a vitiated condition of the humors of the body or when they tried to refute the assumption advanced to overthrow their theory; but it is evident they did not consider, or would not acknowledge, that they ~~they~~ were the effect of local diseased action and not the cause of the disease. From the experiments of Prouss and Wollaston it appears that these concretions are composed of the lithic or uric acid and soda.

Pathology

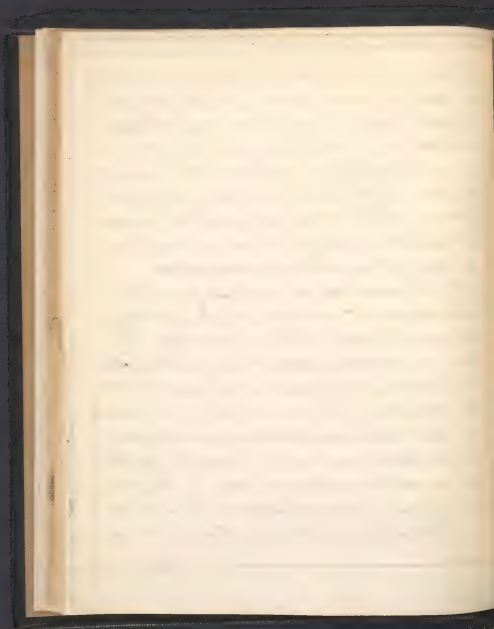
In the following illustration of the nature and pathology of the gout, I shall first enumerate some of the most obvious causes on which it depends, both remote and exciting and afterwards mention some of the symptoms and affections which, vary from what is called a regular or legitimate paragonism of gout.



The cause of gout, whatever they may be, are all such as make a primary impression on the stomach and then or disturb its regular mode of healthy functioning, or in other words produce debility in it, which debility is transferred to other parts of the body. I shall not repeat what I have said before on the hereditary nature of this disease, but proceed to speak of the remote causes independent of any hereditary predisposition.

1st. The most common and most potent of them is the potation of wine and other fermented liquors and ardent spirits. Dr. Darwin says that "the latter are absolutely necessary to produce that form of the gout, which appears in the ligaments of the extremities. Women, we know, are, in general, much less subject to the disease than men, in those parts, and perhaps we may urge as a reason for it, that they do not indulge, to such excess in the potation of wine and ardent spirits as the male sex.

Dr. Rush tells us that wine of all kinds are



more disposed to produce the form of the ^{gas} than spi-
rits that the latter, in consequence of their more power-
ful stimulus, are more apt to pass by the ligament
and to sew at once upon the tree, (Colo 16.)

2^d Indulgence in the pleasure of the
table, eating plentifully of animal food, rendered
still more stimulating by the addition of rich sauces
and condiments, by the cramming in of which,
the stomach is debilitated by the quantity
and quality of it.

3^d Indolence.—This appears to be only a cooper-
ating cause of the gout and one which does not
prove sufficiently powerful to excite a paroxysm of
the disease without the conjoined operation of
some other cause. It seems to produce a tendency to
act by impairing the power of digestion and in
that way rendering the stomach more easy to be
acted on by the impregnation of immoderate
and strong heating food.

4th Cause variety is also has been enumerated.



among the remote causes of the gout. Now this can operate as an ~~expanding~~ remote cause of gout I cannot easily conceive, though the most rational explanation of it seems to be that it ultimately debilitates the stomach, in a manner equivalent to indolence, which at first view, might appear to be a paradox, but there is nothing more common than, febrile causes to produce like effects.

5th Intemperance in venery. Excess in venery, to use the words of Dr. Witham, "produces gout not primarily but secondarily by inducing a general state of debility and by weakening the powers of digestion, both of which circumstances are causes of the gout."

6th Diet and accounts are mentioned by Dr. Cullen among the cause of the gout and that they may assist in producing that disease by impairing the tone of the stomach and consequently the digestive power, is not to be doubted.

7th Much application to study is, perhaps as apt



to produce weakness of the Stomach as one of the remote causes which have been mentioned with the exception of wine and spirit especially when mixed by its almost constant attendance, marching.

The strong tea and coffee, when indulged in to excess are often the remote causes of 'gastric' in the female sex. When the gastritis originates from these the last mentioned causes its generalised Stomachic or various affections of the Stomach and intestines which are calidæ nervosæ or hysteriæ.

That the use of strong tea precipitates the gastritis is moreover inferred by Dr Rush from its prevalence at Japan, where that article is used in large quantities.

2^d The violent exercise of the passions and of the imagination, also great vexation, may I presume occasionally debilitate the Stomach to such a degree as to be followed by a 'let' of the gastritis when conjoined with the more powerful causes.

Having enumerated the usual remote causes



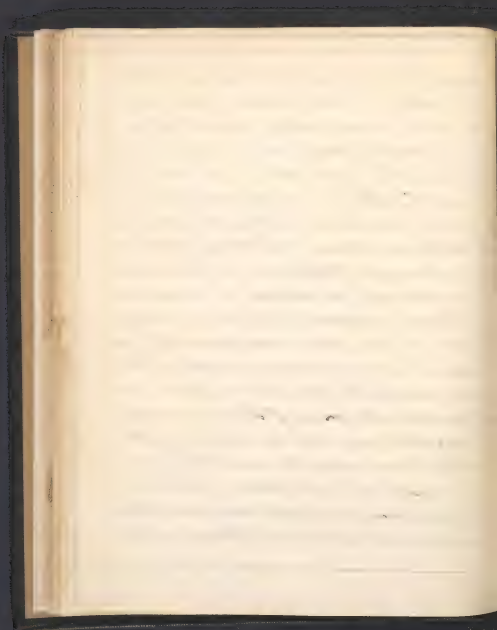
of gout I go on to speak of the exciting causes.
The exciting causes of gout are all those that produce irregular or morbid excitement, by operating on the system, removed meat, and excitable from the action of the fermentations remote causes.

They are often a sudden application of the remote causes, and are either stimulating or laxative.

The remote causes may operate as exciting causes by acting on the system after it has been rendered excitable and debilitated by the previous operation of the same causes, that is, after one application of remote causes, debility and excitability are produced, then a second application of the same kind of causes, instead of inducing debility acts as irritant and produce excitement in the system already rendered excitable.

- These exciting causes are, 1st A hearty meal of rich animal food 2nd A lot of intemperance.
3rd Potation of acid and then wine and beer.
4th The sudden excitement of the passions or joy

or anger 3rd violent and sudden exercise of the
Lords a mind. Dr Rush mentions certain exciting
causes which he calls sedative such as, "Hiding
purging, vomiting, fasting, cold, grief, grief, &c." as
being all the debility left in the system by
the crisis of a fever? I do not admit them to
be exciting causes, but I hold that they only increase
the debility and disorder of the stomach which pro-
ceeds a paroxysm of the disease, for he immediately
afterwards says "The abstraction of a matter, &c.
and habitual impression of any kind, by increasing
the force of those which remain, renders the pro-
duction of morbid and convulsive actions in the
system as much the effects of preternatural and
disproportioned stimulus, as if they were induced
by causes that were externally and violently stim-
ulating." In such a case the natural functions
that support life, as the pulsation of the heart &
&c. become the exciting causes instead of those
mentioned which only induce a partial debility.



Having now enumerated the remote and exciting causes of the gout, I shall proceed to speak of the affections which are vicarious to "regular paroxysms" of that disease.

Of all parts of the body the liver appears to suffer most from the gout. From the vicinity of this viscus to the stomach and the enormous quantity of blood carried to it by the vena portarum, as well as by the hepatic artery, it is easy to conceive that it must frequently be very much affected in this disease. The consequences of gout in the liver, are schinessity, the formation of gall-stones, increased quantity of black bile, jaundice, and sometimes suppuration. These effects appear most commonly in hot climates and in those persons who indulge habitually and freely in the use of ardent spirits. We see here the 'summit' of gout and chronic hepatitis, they appear indeed sometimes to be identical, but are brought on different remote causes.



2nd The lungs often suffer very considerably from attacks of this disease. It produces in them, both true and bastard pleurisy, hæmoptoe, asthma, and pulmonary consumption.

3rd It often attacks the Stomach, with all the violence with which it seizes on the extremities. It is so violent in some cases as to put on many of the symptoms of yellow fever. - It also attacks the other parts of the alimentary canal in the form of colic, dysentery and diarrhoea.

The piles ^{are} often consequences of the gut, but whether they arise from the gut attacking the rectum, or from a choledochic condition, of the blood vessels induced by gut and consequent schismus in the liver, I cannot exactly say, though I am rather disposed to adopt the latter opinion. In fine I think the piles always originate in the last mentioned way, whether they are attendant on gut or not.

4th It attacks the brain, producing in it



violent and distressing haemorrhage, stupor and other affections which arise as consequences of fulness of the vessels and inflammation in that viscus, in other cases.

5th From the great sympathy existing between the stomach and uterus it is reasonable to suppose that the gout often attacks that organ. And this opinion is countenanced by fact, for it is often the seat of gout which is indicated by very alarming and distressing uterine haemorrhages.

6th The kidneys, next to the liver, are often affected with sympathetic gout than any of the viscera. Its effects in them, are stanguity, calculi, oxalates and a chronic pain attended, sometimes with discharges of bloody urine. The neck of the bladder is often the seat of the gout, it is attended by a mucous discharge from the urethra, which has induced some to call it a catarrh of the bladder.

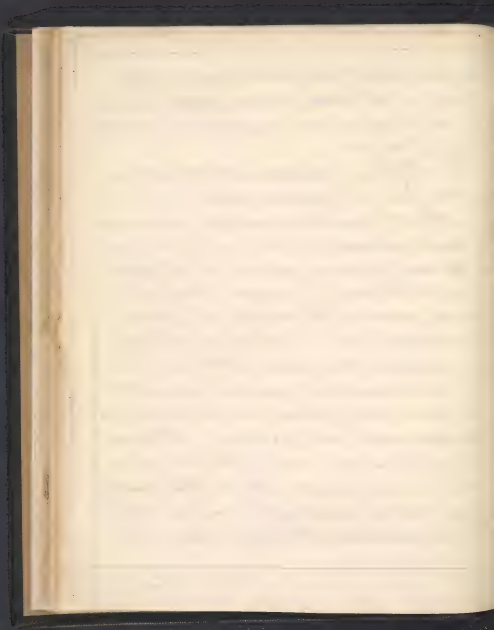
7th The lymphatic and glandular systems are of



-the attacked with gouts. Bubbles, salivation, dropsy, swelling in the breasts of females, Scrophula, have all been known to arise in persons who were subject to fits of the gouts.

8th The skin is sometimes affected with gouts in the form of Erysipelas, tetters &c.

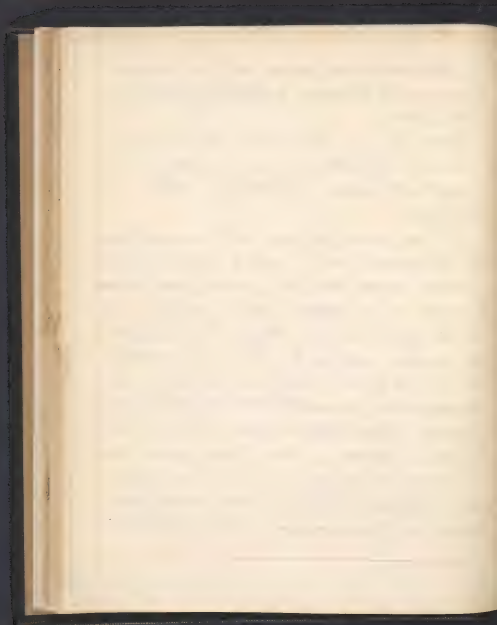
After the gout has attacked for several years in some paroxysms, it often does great injury to the bones by causing effusions into the joints by which the bones are dislocated. These effusions probably consist of the same kind of deposition which takes place in other parts of the body to wit, about the ligaments of the joints, in the cellular membranes, gale-bladder, pelvis of the kidneys and urinary bladder. And it appears to me that those calculi which are formed in the bladders of gouty persons are always of the same composition, however they may be varied in other cases, the gouty diathesis producing the same kind of effusion in all parts of the body indiscriminately.



I shall now proceed as well as I can, to treat particularly of the nature or pathology of this powerful disease.

Various have been the theories which have been advanced at different times, by different writers to explain the nature of it, but none of them are satisfactory.

The very name of gout, which is derived from the French word "goutte" which signifies "a drop," evidently denotes that the disease was supposed to consist in a vitiated state or condition of the fluids of the body, though there were different opinions among the older writers respecting the kind of fluids which became vitiated, some supposing that it was the blood, others the nervous system. Boerhaave maintained that it depended upon a mixture of saline matter deposited from the blood by the capillary arteries, and an acid humor deposited by the nerves which coming into contact in ligamentous parts united and produced



a violent effluence, which irritating and psiching
the nervous fibres, as it were, by their acrimony, pro-
duce a paracryson of gaut. In this case he compares
the ~~solid~~ matter, deposited about the ligaments to the
female ovum or semen, which, of itself, is inca-
-pable of springing into action, until the nervous
liquor discharges upon it its actous recuments, which
like the male semen, under the female prolific, and
begs a paracryson of gaut.

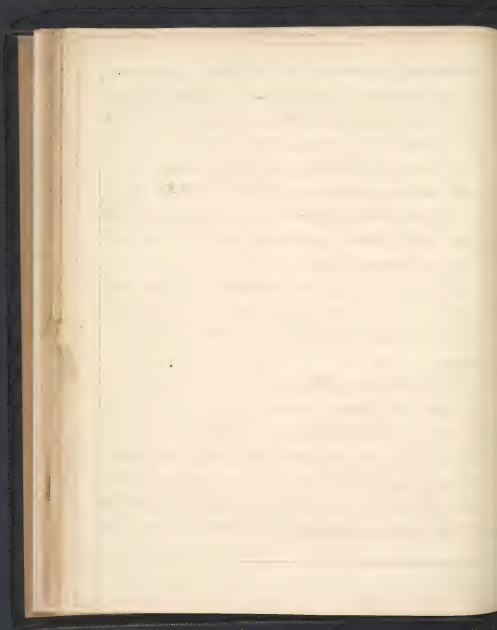
Whatever may be the opinions of other persons re-
specting the nature of this disease, I am led, from
the pulmonary symptoms of it, as nausea, want of
appetite indigestion, flatulency, sour eructations, con-
tinued &c. to place the root of the disease in the
Stomach, which, sympathizing with all other parts of
the body, throws the disease, as it were, from itself
to those parts which are by any means rendered most
susceptible of being attacked by it, or in those
which are farthest from the source of vitality, and which
consequently are most apt to be debilitated and dis-



posed to take on reaction from the force of excitement -
I am supported in this opinion by those of some
of the most reputable Physicians, especially the pro-
fessors of the theory and practice of medicine in
this University. If Richter should place rheumatism
in the alimentary canal, in the form of Dysentery
I say, what objection can be urged against the
Pain being seated in the same part, or at least
having its origin there?

This opinion, is moreover consistent with the meth-
-od of cure which has been found to succeed best in
the hands of some of the best practitioners, namely,
purging.

Dr Cullen, also although he does not positively
say that the disease has its origin in the primae
viae, asserts that the Stomach is the internal part
that is the most frequently and often very consid-
erably affected by the pain. The paroxysms of the
disease he says, are commonly preceded by an affection
of the Stomach, many of the existing cases not



first upon the Stomach, and the Symptoms of
the stonic and uterine part are most commonly
and chiefly affections of that organ.

Upon the whole then I conclude, that the gut
is an inflammatory affection of the whole system de-
rived in by causes which act in the first place
in the Stomach, debilitating it and altering its
regular train of healthy functions, and that from
the great nervous communication which it has
with all other parts of the body, excitement and
morbid increased action arise in such parts as
suffer from various causes to be weaker than
the rest, and of course to be more susceptible of
taking on sympathetic action.

Of the Cure

The cure of gut naturally divides itself into two
kinds, namely, such as is proper to alter the source
of a passion, but it has more its appearance, and
2^d such as is proper to alter its progress
after they have entirely disappeared.



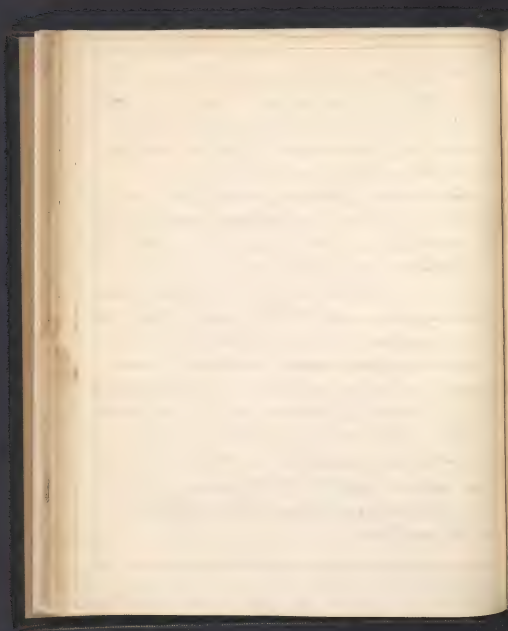
1st Among the most important means to abating
pain and inflammation in a paronychia of joint is
continued and active purging, until the bowels are ultra-
nally evacuated. By this means the depressed action
of the alimentary canal is altered, the paronychia is
broken, and the patient in a short time regains the
active use of his limbs. To be effectual, however, the
purging should be continued for several days. The best
purgatives in this case are Rhubarb and Magnesia, in
combination. Considering the joint to be an inflamma-
tory disease, it is somewhat astonishing that most
of the European practitioners should be content with
simply mapping the inflamed limb in flannels and
suffering the paronychia to wear itself down to the
extreme danger of the patient and danger of irreme-
diable injury to his constitution. And it is still
more so, that Sydenham who well knew the pain-
ful consequences of constipation, should forbid purging
~~when constipation~~ when constipation exists or is
imminent, he says the joint comes thundering back.



to the extremities. — notwithstanding the singularly bene-
ficial effects of purging in general it will not be effec-
tual in every case without the combination of other
remedies. and a great variety of practice, according
to circumstances, should be called to assist it.

Next to purging. Bloodletting has been long most gen-
erally acknowledged, and it becomes indispensably necessary, if there
be determination to the lungs or head or stomach.

Diaphoretics are occasionally of service and we
are warranted in their use by observing that nature
sometimes puts a stop to the paroxysm by sponta-
neous diaphoresis or diarrhoea. After the pain is
somewhat mitigated, emollient diaphoretics become
proper, such as wine, opus, oilum and volatile salts
&c. — Besides the remedies which have been mention-
ed, there are some local ones which have sometimes
been of service, as fomentations and blisters, and these are
more especially called for if the paroxysm attacks
any of the vital parts, because they invite ^{it} from them
to the extremities.

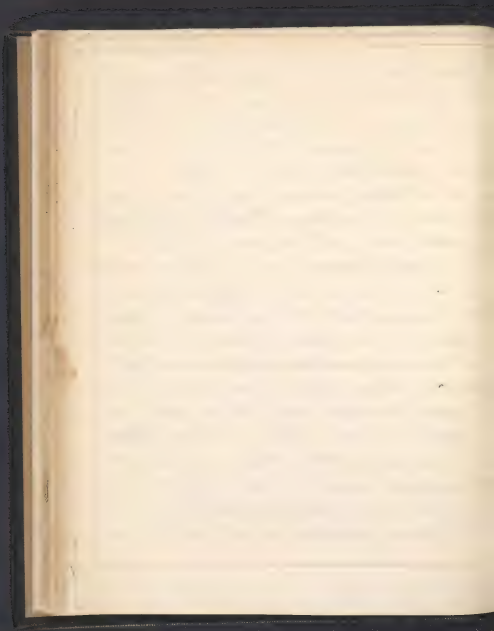


Typical reading by such descriptions it may be
used in some cases with advantage also fumigations
vapour baths and the like. Symplic is also sometimes
used to give more effect. Dr. Keil is in favour
on the point instead of making use of steam and
warm applications advises the counter plan of cool-
ment, namely the sedations & increased heat by apply-
ing cloths wetted with cold water to the part.

This method of treatment may be a choice but there
seems to be some danger in making the experiment
with the disease I am to treat upon some vital parts.

Before the associated remedies. There are some
which are strictly empirical which have been highly
celebrated in the cure of gonorrhea, and one of which I think
it necessary to mention as they have all fallen into
discredit or nearly so. The Eau Mercurielle & Theriac
are much celebrated in France and other parts
of Europe, and even in this country there are instan-
ces of its curing even of singular efficacy.

Dr. Chapman mentions the case of a Mr. G. a man

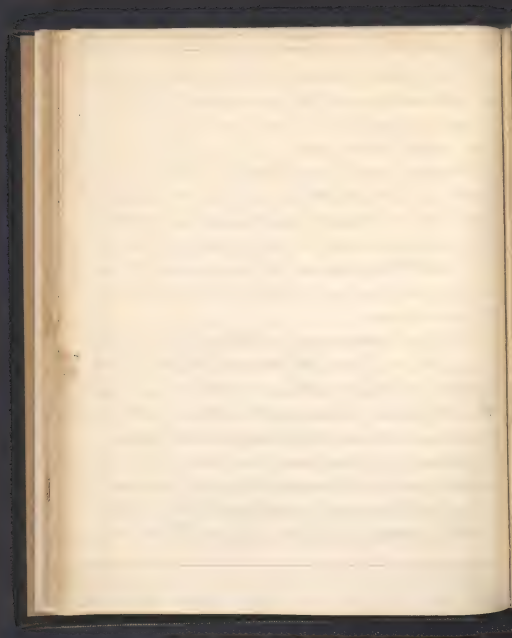


87

dist. where he was treated with much care and active inflammation. He took a tea spoonful of the medicine on going to bed, he was bled, and the nausea and distich produced by it were very great, but in the morning another dose cured him. Although much confidence has been usually reposed in this medicine yet it has occasionally showed such violent effects as to have been entirely laid aside by some practitioners. Like the Polland powder, the habitual use of it is said to prove inimical to health, tho' this is not uniformly the case.

When gang attacks any of the vital parts, as the lungs heart &c. the treatment should be varied according to the parts that is affected. In such cases the best remedies are volatile alkali, opium or both combined, much &c. &c. If a paroxysm seize upon the stomach, very large doses become necessary, Laudanum should be given to the amount of 60, 80 or 100 drops.

To assist these means we should use the warm bath and lamentations in order to mitigate the pain and



tranquillize the stomach. As the pulse is almost always
delirious in focus inflammation of this organ, we must
pay no regard to it, but bleed if the other symptoms
demand it. Also when it attacks the brain, lungs,
&c, the treatment should be similar to that which
is necessary in inflammation, in those parts from
other causes, and we should endeavour to bring the dis-
ease back to the extremities by blisters, sinapisms and
other stimulating applications.

Although I do not believe that it is possible
by any regimen or manner of life, completely to
eradicate the susceptibility to gout, when it is
once firmly fixed in the system. Still I think a
great deal may be done towards the prevention
of paroxysms or a mitigation of them when they
do occur. For this purpose nothing has ever been
better than a rigid adherence to temperance to-
gether with regular and continued exercise. A diet
consisting of milk and vegetables, with regular
moderate exercise, have in most cases been found

to succeed best, and as we cannot hope to cure it completely by any kind of medicaments, it is then and then only, from which, we can expect any chance of warding off this most insidious and painful disease.

